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# DiscMaster™ Dispenser

**REF MDD16**



**A robust and reliable antimicrobial susceptibility cartridge disc dispenser**



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## Introduction

The DISCMASTER™ Dispenser- 16 place is a reliable and robust hand operated device for placing antimicrobial susceptibility discs onto the surface of a 120mm square agar plate. Precision engineered to incorporate all the advantages offered by disc diffusion methodology, the DISCMASTER™ Dispenser- 16 place is designed for use with MASTDISC® Antimicrobial Susceptibility Test Cartridges.

The DISCMASTER™ Dispenser- 16 place has been developed with the needs of the end user in mind, incorporating a 'cartridge empty lock-off' system and a semi transparent height adjustable base ring, which is marked with a height scale to ensure positive placement of discs onto the agar surface. The dispenser is housed in an ergonomically designed canister with desiccant to provide a clean and dry environment for storage when not in use.

## Operating Instructions

### 1. Calculating base ring height setting

Please note that the numerical scale on the base ring approximates to the height in mm that the base-plate of the dispenser will be above a bench surface. In order to adjust the dispenser to the correct height for dispensing, measure the overall height of agar including the base of the dish in mm and adjust the base ring to this setting. Further minor adjustment may be required when in operation due to minor variations in agar depth across the plate.

### 2. Adjusting dispenser height

To adjust the height of the dispenser the base skirt is rotated. As this action is carried out an audible 'click' will be heard every  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a turn. This is perfectly normal and results from a built in lock which ensures that the selected height setting remains unchanged during normal use. Should the skirt be inadvertently turned too far and it separates from the base of the dispenser, gently insert the four locating lugs into the opposing grooves and twist gently into place. N.B no force is required for this operation.

### 3. Inserting cartridges

Hold the first MASTDISC® cartridge to be loaded at the label end and line up the lug with the wide slot in the tube holder of the dispenser. Firmly but gently press the cartridge down until an audible 'click' is heard. This ensures that the cartridge is locked into position. Repeat with the remaining MASTDISC® cartridges.

## 4. Dispensing discs

Place the dispenser over the agar plate. Confirm placement is correct by checking the dispenser base aligns with the corners of the agar plate. The dispenser should be level and sit firmly on the bench surface. The MASTDISCS® cartridges in the dispenser should be aligned parallel with the sides of the agar plate. Fully depress the handle of the dispenser in a smooth, continuous, downward movement and release. Do not exert undue pressure on the handle.

**N.B. Under no circumstances should a locked dispenser be exposed to excessive force as this will damage the mechanism.**

If the dispenser fails to operate for any reason please consult the troubleshooting guide overleaf.

## After Use

Check the dispenser for foreign material and if required clean and decontaminate as described below. Return the dispenser to its storage canister and store as directed below.

## Cleaning

Before cleaning ensure all cartridges are removed from the dispenser.

For cleaning of minor material contamination (e.g. agar, dirt or dust) the use of 70% isopropanol (IPA) solution using a cotton swab, or commercially available 70% IPA wipes, is recommended. Allow to air dry before placing the dispenser in the storage canister.

For more severe material contamination, use a diluted (1%) sodium hypochlorite solution or a diluted (2%) non-toxic quaternary ammonium salt disinfectant. Wash with distilled water to remove all cleaning solution and then with 70% IPA. Allow to air dry before placing the dispenser in the storage canister.

Always follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning materials used and only expose the dispenser to cleaning materials for the shortest time recommended by the manufacturer.

The use of a swab may facilitate cleaning of disc ejector holes and general base of the dispenser.

**N.B. Never use phenolic compounds, strong hypochlorite or strong detergent solutions which may cause damage to the surface of the unit. Use of acetone may cause discoloration and damage the dispenser body.**



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## Decontamination

In normal operation the dispenser should not become contaminated. However, if this does occur proceed as follows:

1. Remove all cartridges then remove the blue base ring which should be decontaminated separately.
2. Decontaminate by immersing the dispenser to a depth of about 5 mm in a diluted (2%) non-toxic quaternary ammonium salt disinfectant, until the inner body of the dispenser just touches the disinfectant solution. Leave for 15 minutes.
3. Rinse first with distilled water and then with 70% IPA.
4. Leave, placed at an angle, to air dry at room temperature.

**N.B. Should dispensers need to be returned to the manufacturer, a decontamination certificate must be included. Decontamination forms are available from MAST® Group Customer Services Team or from the MAST® website ([www.mastgrp.com](http://www.mastgrp.com))**

## Performance/In use stability

Performance and in use stability data for MDD16 is available upon request.

## Storage

The dispenser is presented in an airtight storage container which incorporates MAST® Silica Gel capsules. Always allow the dispenser and container to equilibrate to room temperature before opening. When not in use store the dispenser in its container at 2°C to 8°C.

Ensure the desiccant remains yellow in colour at all times. If the desiccant appears green in colour, regenerate by drying for at least 24 hours at 50 to 55°C. If the desiccant fails to achieve the yellow colouration, discard and replace with fresh MAST® Silica Gel capsule. For optimum performance, ensure the canister seal remains clean and unobstructed. Do not apply grease to the seal.

## Warning

If the dispenser jams, or fails to dispense, do not dismantle the dispenser. Dismantling the dispenser may result in injury due to the sudden release of the compressed internal spring and will invalidate your warranty.

## Troubleshooting

See troubleshooting flowchart on the following page.

## Warranty

MAST® Group Limited extends a limited warranty on this product against defects in materials and workmanship. For further details customers should contact their local distributor.

## Patent and Design Registration

Dispenser:

European Community Design Registration number  
003052539-0001

China Design Registration application number  
201630306333.7

US Design Registration number US29/567506

Canister:

European Community Design Registration number;  
003052539-0002

China Design Registration application number  
201630306332.2

US Design Registration number US 29/567514



## Troubleshooting Guide

